

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 8062**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1829

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 23, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 20, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Abandoned Infants.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Kathy Norris

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**FUNDS AFFECTED:**      X      **GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill increases from 30 days to 45 days the maximum age of an abandoned infant that may be taken into custody without a court order. The bill provides that a parent who leaves an infant with an emergency medical services provider has the right to remain anonymous. The bill also requires a local child protective service that takes custody of an infant to contact the Missing Persons Clearing House to determine if the infant has been reported missing. It provides that, in custody hearings concerning an abandoned infant left with an emergency medical services provider, the emergency medical services provider is not required to be notified of custody proceedings. The bill also provides that the parent of an abandoned infant left with an emergency medical services provider is not required to be notified of custody proceedings.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This bill would extend the period of time that a parent may abandon an infant with an emergency medical services provider. Potentially, the number of infants abandoned could increase although this result seems unlikely. The bill also specifies that a parent who leaves an infant with an emergency medical services provider has a right to remain anonymous. This provision could save the state administrative dollars by reducing the number of child abuse or neglect cases investigated and prosecuted. The bill also requires a local child protective service that takes custody of an abandoned infant to contact the Indiana Clearinghouse on Missing Children, (administered by the State Police), to determine if the infant has been reported missing. The Clearing house may be accessed via an 800 telephone number.

The ultimate impact of the bill will be determined by the number of infants that are abandoned and the circumstances surrounding the abandonment. The Division of Family and Children estimates that it provides assistance to 60 abandoned infants each year.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill also specifies that a parent who leaves an infant with an

emergency medical services provider has a right to remain anonymous. This provision could save the local courts administrative dollars by reducing the number of child abuse or neglect hearings. The provision regarding parental notification of custody hearings for abandoned infants is expected to have a minimal impact on courts with juvenile jurisdiction and local offices of the Division of Family and Children. This provision may decrease the length of time necessary to finalize an adoption of an abandoned infant. The bill also eliminates the requirement that the emergency services provider with whom an abandoned infant was left, be notified of custody hearings. This provision relieves the local courts of an administrative duty.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** The Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Family and Children.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Local courts with juvenile jurisdiction.

**Information Sources:**